

February 27, 2008



311 California Street, Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94104

T 415.391.3212

F 415.391.3245

www.asyousow.org

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF
CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.**

Dear Public Enforcement Agencies:

As You Sow ("AYS") is a non-profit foundation organized under California's Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law. AYS is dedicated to, among other causes, the protection of the environment, the promotion of human health, the improvement of worker and consumer safety, and environmental education.

AYS has documented violations of California's Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), codified at Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.* This letter serves to provide AYS' notification of these violations to the public enforcement agencies and to the violator. Pursuant to §25249.7(d) of the statute, AYS intends to bring an enforcement action sixty (60) days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

A summary of the statute and its implementing regulations, which was prepared by the lead agency designated under the statute, is enclosed with the copy of this notice served upon the violator. The specific details of the violations that are the subject of this notice are provided below.

Alleged violator. The name of the violator covered by this notice is **VITACOST.COM, INC.** doing business as **NUTRACEUTICAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE ("NSI")**.

Chemicals. These violations involve exposures to lead and lead compounds from the products listed below. On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals known to cause cancer.

Consumer products. The products that are the subject of this notice are herbs and herbal products, traditional patent medicines, bulk herbs, infusions, extracted powders, tea pills, traditional pills, patent formulas, bulk teas, liquid extracts and/or capsules that are imported, exported, manufactured, packaged, distributed, marketed and/or sold by NSI. The phrase "traditional patent medicines" above is used herein as defined by the California Department of Health Services: "herbal and patent medicines consisting of single or multiple herbal ingredients, including botanical, mineral and animal products, formulated into tablets, pills, powders and liquids." The products that are the subject of this notice include but are not limited to the following:

Product

ALLER-7

COLON CLEANSE

to

Chemical

lead and lead compounds

lead and lead compounds



FO-TI ROOT
HERBAL HORMONE COMPLEX
HORNY GOAT WEED COMPLEX
KUDZU ROOT
SCHIZANDRA

lead and lead compounds
lead and lead compounds
lead and lead compounds
lead and lead compounds
lead and lead compounds

Route of exposure. The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the purchase, acquisition, handling and use of these products as recommended by the manufacturer. Accordingly, the consumer exposures have occurred and continue to occur primarily through the ingestion exposure route, but also may occur through inhalation and/or and dermal contact.

Duration of violations. Each of these ongoing violations has occurred on every day for at least February 27, 2007, as well as every day since the products were introduced in the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are removed from the products.

Pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100, a certificate of merit is attached hereto.

In keeping with its public interest mission and to expeditiously rectify these ongoing violations of California law, AYS is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. Please direct all communications regarding this notice to AYS' counsel in this matter:

Andrew L. Packard, Esq.
Law Offices of Andrew L. Packard
319 Pleasant Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
Tel: 707-763-7227
Fax: 707-763-9227

Very truly yours,



Larry Fahn
Executive Director

Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

(for As You Sow's Proposition 65 Violation on VITACOST.COM, INC. doing
business as NUTRACEUTICAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE)

I, Andrew L. Packard, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the party in the notice has violated Health & Safety Code §25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the action.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: February 26, 2008



Andrew L. Packard

Attachments (for Attorney General copy only)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is: 311 California Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, CA 94104.

On February 27, 2008, I served the following documents:

- Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.
- Certificate of Merit
- "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary"

on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the parties listed below, and depositing it at a United States Postal Service Office for delivery by Certified Mail:

Ira Kerker, CEO
Vitacost.Com, Inc.
dba Nutraceutical Sciences Institute
352 SW 12th Avenue
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

On February 27, 2008, I served the following document(s):

- Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.
- Certificate of Merit, including Supporting Documentation Required by Title 11, C.C.R. § 3102

on the following party by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below, and depositing it at a United States Postal Service Office for delivery by Certified Mail:

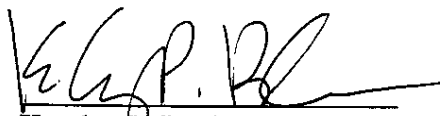
Attn: Ed Weil, Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
P.O. Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On February 27, 2008, I served the following document(s):

- Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq., including Exhibit A
- Certificate of Merit

on each of the parties on the service list attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the service list attached hereto, and depositing it at United States Postal Service mail box for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on February 27, 2008, at San Francisco, California.


Karalyn P. Buchner

PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SERVICE LIST

THE HONORABLE THOMAS J ORLOFF
ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
1225 FALLON ST RM 900
OAKLAND CA 94612

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM RICHMOND
ALPINE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 248
MARKLEEVILLE CA 96120

THE HONORABLE TODD D RIEBE
AMADOR COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
708 COURT ST STE 202
JACKSON CA 95642

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL RAMSEY
BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
25 COUNTY CTR DR
OROVILLE CA 95965

THE HONORABLE JEFFREY TUTTLE
CALAVERAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
891 MTN RANCH RD
SAN ANDREAS CA 95249

THE HONORABLE JOHN POYNER
COLUSA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
547 MARKET ST STE 102
COLUSA CA 95932

THE HONORABLE ROBERT KOCHLY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
725 COURT ST 4TH FLR
MARTINEZ CA 94553

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL RIESE
DEL NORTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
450 H ST STE 171
CRESCENT CITY CA 95531

THE HONORABLE VERNON PIERSON
EL DORADO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
515 MAIN ST
PLACERVILLE CA 95667

THE HONORABLE ELIZABETH EGAN
FRESNO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
2220 TULARE ST STE 1000
FRESNO CA 93721

THE HONORABLE ROBERT HOLZAPFEL
GLENN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 430
WILLOWS CA 95988

THE HONORABLE PAUL GALLEGOS
HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
825 FIFTH ST
EUREKA CA 95501

THE HONORABLE GILBERT OTERO
IMPERIAL COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
940 W MAIN ST
EL CENTRO CA 92243

THE HONORABLE ARTHUR MAILLET
INYO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX D
INDEPENDENCE CA 93526

THE HONORABLE EDWARD R JAGELS
KERN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
1215 TRUXTUN AVE
BAKERSFIELD CA 93301

THE HONORABLE RON CALHOUN
KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
1400 W LACEY BLVD
HANFORD CA 93230

THE HONORABLE JON HOPKINS
LAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
255 N FORBES ST
LAKEPORT CA 95453

THE HONORABLE ROBERT BURNS
LASSEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
220 S LASSEN ST STE 8
SUSANVILLE CA 96130

THE HONORABLE STEVE COOLEY
LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
210 W TEMPLE ST STE 18000
LOS ANGELES CA 90012-3210

THE HONORABLE ERNEST LICALS
MADERA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
209 W YOSEMITE AVE
MADERA CA 93637

THE HONORABLE EDWARD BERBERIAN, JR.
MARIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
3501 CIVIC CTR DR RM 130
SAN RAFAEL CA 94903

THE HONORABLE ROBERT BROWN
MARIPOSA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 730
MARIPOSA CA 95338

THE HONORABLE MEREDITH LINTOTT
MENDOCINO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 1000
UKIAH CA 95482

THE HONORABLE LARRY MORSE II
MERCED COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
2222 M ST
MERCED CA 95340

THE HONORABLE GARY WOOLVERTON
MODOC COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
204 S COURT ST RM 202
ALTURAS CA 96101-4020

THE HONORABLE GEORGE BOOTH
MONO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 617
BRIDGEPORT CA 93517

THE HONORABLE DEAN FLIPPO
MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 1131
SALINAS CA 93902

THE HONORABLE GARY LIEBERSTEIN
NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
931 PARKWAY MALL
NAPA CA 94559

THE HONORABLE CLIFFORD NEWELL
NEVADA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
201 CHURCH ST STE 8
NEVADA CITY CA 95959

THE HONORABLE TONY RACKAUCKAS
ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
401 CIVIC CTR DR WEST
SANTA ANA CA 92701

THE HONORABLE BRAD FENOCCHIO
PLACER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
11562 B AVE
AUBURN CA 95603

THE HONORABLE JEFF CUNAN
PLUMAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
520 MAIN ST RM 404
QUINCY CA 95971

THE HONORABLE RODRIC PACHECO
RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
4075 MAIN ST
RIVERSIDE CA 92501

THE HONORABLE JAN SCULLY
SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
901 G ST
SACRAMENTO CA 95814

THE HONORABLE CANDICE HOOPER
SAN BENITO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
419 FOURTH ST, FL 2
HOLLISTER CA 95023

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL RAMOS
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
316 N MTN VIEW AVE
SAN BERNARDINO CA 92415-0004

PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SERVICE LIST

THE HONORABLE BONNIE DUMANIS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
330 W BROADWAY
SAN DIEGO CA 92101

THE HONORABLE KAMALA HARRIS
SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
850 BRYANT ST RM 325
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103

THE HONORABLE JAMES WILLETT
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 990
STOCKTON CA 95201-0990

THE HONORABLE GERALD T SHEA
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
CITY GOVERNMENT CTR, 4TH FLR
SAN LUIS OBISPO CA 93408

THE HONORABLE JAMES P FOX
SAN MATEO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
400 COUNTY CTR FL 3
REDWOOD CITY CA 94063

THE HONORABLE CHRISTIE STANLEY
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
1112 SANTA BARBARA ST
SANTA BARBARA CA 93101

THE HONORABLE DOLORES CARR
SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
70 W HEDDING ST WEST WING
SAN JOSE CA 95110

THE HONORABLE BOB LEE
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
701 OCEAN ST RM 200
SANTA CRUZ CA 95060

THE HONORABLE GERALD C. BENITO
SHASTA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
1525 COURT ST FL 3
REDDING CA 96001

THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE ALLEN
SIERRA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 457
DOWNIEVILLE CA 95936

THE HONORABLE JAMES ANDRUS
SISKIYOU COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 986
YREKA CA 96097

THE HONORABLE DAVID W PAULSON
SOLANO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
675 TEXAS ST STE 4500
FAIRFIELD CA 94533

THE HONORABLE STEPHAN PASSALACQUA
SONOMA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
600 ADMINISTRATION DR RM 212-J
SANTA ROSA CA 95403

THE HONORABLE BIRGIT FLADAGER
STANISLAUS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 442
MODESTO CA 95353

THE HONORABLE CARL V ADAMS
SUTTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
446 SECOND ST
YUBA CITY CA 95991

THE HONORABLE GREGG COHEN
TEHAMA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 519
RED BLUFF CA 96080

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL HARPER
TRINITY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 310
WEAVERVILLE CA 96093

THE HONORABLE PHILLIP J CLINE
TULARE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
221 S MOONEY BLVD RM 224
VISALIA CA 93291

THE HONORABLE DONALD SEGERSTROM JR
TUOLUMNE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
423 N WASHINGTON ST
SONORA CA 95370

THE HONORABLE GREG TOTTEN
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
800 S VICTORIA AVE
VENTURA CA 93009

THE HONORABLE JEFF REISIG
YOLO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
301 SECOND ST
WOODLAND CA 95695

THE HONORABLE PATRICK MCGRATH
YUBA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
215 FIFTH ST
MARYSVILLE CA 95901

LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
800 CITY HALL EAST
200 N MAIN ST
LOS ANGELES CA 90012

SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
1200 THIRD AVE STE 1620
SAN DIEGO CA 92101

SAN JOSE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
200 E SANTA CLARA ST FL 6
SAN JOSE CA 95113

SAN FRANCISCO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CITY HALL RM 234
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

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